ABSTRACT

Method and apparatus for synchronizing the transmitting

side and the receiving side in an IP network that uses a

stream encryption algorithm are disclosed. A sequence number

5   is introduced into the payload of each packet at the

transmitting side and transmitted with the packets. Upon

receipt at the receiving side, the sequence number is

extracted from the payload and used to synchronize the

receiving side to the transmitting side. An error detection

10   mechanism is used to detect when the synchronization is lost

and a recovery procedure is initiated. The length of the

sequence number is made sufficiently long to cope with any

jitter variations in the IP network. This sequence number

length is dynamically adjustable based on the amount of

15   jitter detected in the network.